

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) A cutting blade set for use in connection with a hand-held cutting tool having a motor, and a casing configured to carry the blade set a pair of ~~fixed cutting blades in a spaced-apart relationship, and a reciprocating cutting member that pivots about a transverse axis to reciprocate between the fixed cutting blades,~~ the cutting blade set comprising:

a reciprocating cutting member that pivots about a transverse axis of the casing;

and

a pair of fixed-cutting blades configured to be attached to the casing in a spaced-apart relationship, wherein the reciprocating blade is configured to reciprocate between the pair of fixed-cutting blades, and wherein each of the fixed cutting blades comprises -

a body having a hole and spaced-apart first and second shear faces, the hole being configured to be located at the transverse axis of the reciprocating cutting member, and the first and second shear faces defining a thickness of the body;

a first guide surface extending between the first and second shear faces, the first guide surface being at least substantially normal to the first and second shear faces;

a first shear edge at the junction of the first guide surface and the first shear face, the first shear edge having a first section forward of the hole and a second section different than the first section aft of the hole;

a second shear edge at the junction of the first guide surface and the second shear face, the first and second shear edges being generally parallel to and spaced apart from one another by the thickness of the body;

and

the hole in the body extending between the first and second shear faces, the hole being configured to interface with the casing such that the blade can be attached to the casing with the first shear face facing inward and only the first section of the first shear edge positioned at a cutting zone for shearing a workpiece, the hole being further positioned such that the blade can be attached to the casing with the second shear face facing inward and only the second section of the first shear edge positioned at the cutting zone.

57. (Previously Presented) The cutting blade of claim 56 wherein:
the hole comprises a first mounting hole;
the blade further comprises second and third mounting holes extending between the first and second shear faces; and
the second and third mounting holes are at least approximately equidistant from the first mounting hole.

58. (Previously Presented) The cutting blade of claim 56, further comprising:
a second guide surface opposite the first guide surface and extending between the first and second shear faces;
a third shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the first shear face; and
a fourth shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the second shear face, the third and fourth shear edges being generally parallel to and spaced apart from one another by the thickness of the body.

59. (Previously Presented) The cutting blade of claim 56 wherein the hole comprises a first mounting hole, and wherein the cutting blade further comprises:
a second guide surface opposite the first guide surface and extending between the first and second shear faces;

- a third shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the first shear face, the third shear edge having a first section and a second section different than the first section;
- a fourth shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the second shear face, the third and fourth shear edges being generally parallel to and spaced apart from one another by the thickness of the body;
- a second hole in the body extending between the first and second shear faces, the second hole being configured to interface with the casing such that the blade can be attached to the casing with the first shear face facing inward and only the first section of the third shear edge positioned at the cutting zone, the second hole being further positioned such that the blade can be attached to the casing with the second shear face facing inward and only the second section of the third shear edge positioned at the cutting zone.

60. (Previously Presented) The cutting blade of claim 56 wherein:
the hole comprises a first mounting hole;
the cutting blade further comprises a second guide surface opposite the first guide surface and extending between the first and second shear faces;
the cutting blade further comprises second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth mounting holes extending between the first and second shear faces;
the first, second, and third mounting holes define a first line;
the fourth, fifth, and sixth mounting holes define a second line generally parallel to and offset from the first line;
the second and third mounting holes are at least approximately equidistant from the first mounting hole; and
the fifth and sixth mounting holes are at least approximately equidistant from the fourth mounting hole.

61. (Previously Presented) The cutting blade of claim 56 wherein the first guide surface is flat to lie flush against the face of the workpiece while the workpiece is sheared.